GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
REPLANTATION OF TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER CROPS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any scheme for replantation of tea, coffee and rubber crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any subsidy or other financial assistance is likely to be made available to the planters;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for replantation of these crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.162 FOR ANSWER ON 11TH MARCH, 2008 REGARDING "REPLANTATION OF TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER CROPS"

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): TEA: Government has already launched a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) in January, 2007 to extend financial support to the tea growers for replanting and rejuvenation of the old tea bushes. The programme envisages uprooting and replantation/rejuvenation of 2.13 lakh hectares of old and uneconomical sections of tea over a period of 15 years. The scheme provides for financial assistance to the extent of 75% of the assessed unit cost of which 50% is provided as long term loan repayable over 13 years with an initial moratorium of 5 years and soft interest @ 9.5%. 25% of the unit cost would be provided as subsidy by the Government and the garden owners are required to bear only the remaining 25% of the unit cost. The estimated outlay for the scheme will be Rs. 567.10 crore i.e. capital infusion of Rs.91 crore in SPTF plus subsidy of Rs. 476.10 crore during the 11th Plan Period. The estimated area to be taken up for replantation/rejuvenation during the period would be 85,044 hectares and a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been set-aside during the 11th Plan Period for meeting the subsidy requirements.

COFFEE: Coffee Board has identified an area of about 80,000 hectares out of 3.81 lakh hectares of coffee area, which is senile & uneconomical and requires to be replanted to improve farm productivity to desired levels in the long run. During the 11th Plan Period, an area of 40,000 hectares is proposed to taken up for replantation by extending suitable financial support in the form of subsidy. In the 10th Plan Period subsidy @ 20% of replantation cost was paid to the small and medium coffee growers.

RUBBER: Rubber Board has drawn up a scheme for scientifically replanting 33,500 hectares of old and uneconomical rubber plantations comprising 30,000 hectares in the States of Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu (Traditional areas) and 3500 hectares in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa & other States including North East (Non-traditional areas) by extending suitable financial support in the form of subsidy during the 11th Plan Period. During the 10th Plan, subsidy of Rs.20,000/- per hectare in traditional area was provided for replanting upto 2 hectare. Similarly, a subsidy of Rs. 20,000 per hectare for the growers having area upto 5 ha. and Rs.16,000 per hectare for the growers having area between 5 to 20 hectare was provided for replanting in non-traditional and NE Region.